

Spirit will help you understand the Bible. I answered by showing that men preach, teach, etc. and asked Randy what the difference was. I asked Randy again about what he said about studying the Bible. I was hoping he would bring up the Holy Spirit helping us to understand God's Word again so I could answer that, but he only mentioned it the one time and clearly stayed away from it after that. I would like to ask Randy just how the Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's Word, and then most importantly ask him for book, chapter, and verse on the matter. Randy, please send me that information so I can print it here in this bulletin. Brethren, the Holy Spirit issue of personal indwelling and guidance is one of the greatest problems I see in the church today. It certainly opens the doors to all kinds of problems. See my series on the Holy Spirit at www.mission-usa.org or ask for it.

If the truth were told I am sure the former congregation (which some of this congregation attended at one time) believed in direct help from the Holy Spirit and felt very comfortable in their great departures from the truth. And likewise for the congregation to the north, and even the last group that split off from the congregation being dealt with. I commend you brethren for standing against those errors, but as for the last split off can you not yet see how a poor and **unsound leadership** helped bring that about? How about paying for that preacher to go to a denominational school and even with large funds not reported to the church? And by the way, what about using denominational books in class? And Randy (L) blasts me for suggesting using commentaries from **good sound brethren!** Was Randy just trying to cause trouble or just trying to show his ignorance? I truly believe that Randy was just trying to cause trouble.

I write these things with true love and concern to this congregation and the whole brotherhood for many have similar problems. I write these things because I am very certain that it is God's will that such be done (verses cited at the beginning). Brethren, we all need to awake to righteousness and consider eternity and the fact that we ourselves could be lost in a devil's hell. Every individual needs to take a stand with God, and you do that by standing for God's whole truth. Do not follow others to hell.

Please see the **Words Of Life** bulletin as well on the leadership.♥



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(2 Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

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Leadership Problems (to be continued)

(Many have left the vineyard and gone to the orchard; meaning they have left God's way and have gone their own way! In this series we will see the main problem and sub-problems with man over and over again.)

by Perry Sexton

The church is made up of people and where you have people you will have problems of various kinds. However, if God's Word is followed these problems will be handled in a godly manner. In God's great wisdom He has given the church a plan: Qualified elders and deacons. I cannot overemphasize **qualified** for when you have unqualified “elders” you already have problems and are bound to have more problems and in many cases very serious problems. In the books of Timothy and Titus these qualifications are given. However men have supplanted or ignored these God given qualifications in many ways and unqualified men have been appointed in these positions. From the start there are problems: anytime one chooses not to follow God it is the beginning of problems! To “get around” God's plan of the eldership men have come up with “leadership” in place of eldership. Are such following God? No! If so, where is BCV?

To be sure, when no men are qualified for the eldership it is a problem and something must be done. May I also say that in a sizeable congregation if not two men can be found that meet God's qualifications, it is a shame! While this article is not in detail about what to do in such cases, a few common sense guidelines come to mind. Certainly men can be appointed to take care of certain works of the church and general meetings of the men, and at times meetings of the whole congregation is in order. A congregation must exercise prudence in these meetings; e.g., a new convert should not be involved

in making important spiritual decisions and neither should a baptized child, etc.

Following is a series of articles dealing with some problems of congregations I have worked with, visited, or known about. Real names are used for the purpose of clarity, and prayerfully will help those who are in error and those who follow those in error. It is my sincere prayer that they repent. Should these problems be dealt with? A spiritually minded person knows the answer. From Geneses chapter four on we learn that we are our brother's keeper, and we are to rebuke sinners (cp. 2 Sam. 12:1-13; Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 5:20, etc.). We are to mark and withdraw from those not walking uprightly (2 Thess. 3:6; Romans 16:17, etc.). God's orders! Of course, those guilty do not like it and those with the main problem seen throughout this series think they have a better plan than Almighty God's way. The ones named have been notified that I intend to deal with these problems in this bulletin. I do so with true love and concern for those involved and for God's church everywhere.

This congregation evidently does not have qualified men for the eldership as God has appointed. At any rate somewhere back in time three men were selected and appointed in some manner to take the place of elders as God has prescribed and, evidently they think, it would be perfectly alright since they are not elders, but rather "The Leadership." After their names I put this (L) to identify them as a part of "The Leadership." The problem is these men are not qualified to be elders for many reasons, but mostly they are just not spiritually minded and sound as they should be (cp. 1 Cor. 3:1; 1 & 2 Tim. and Titus): This covers a lot of qualifications that God sets forth. Elders are to be the spiritual leaders of the church. They are to keep the church pure and ensure that the members are walking worthy of that calling; feeding them the Word of God that the church may grow thereby (Acts 20:28; 2 Peter 3:18). It is an awesome responsibility (Heb. 13:17). What happens so often is that people are put in teaching positions who are not qualified to teach (Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Tim. 1:7).

At this particular congregation it was observed by others that "The Leadership" (L) did not receive us well. In fact, John (L) did not speak to me at all, not after the first sermon he heard of me, not until I spoke to him at the meal line even though he had ample opportunity. Randy (L) made some good comments publicly after my sermons, but not one of the three (L) ever said to me personally that I had a good lesson. That bothers me in that I know I preached the truth and what all needed to hear. As time went on I gave them an out (if they (L) did

not want me to preach there any more) and they took it eagerly. Well, that was disappointing to me, but at the same time it was no surprise.

Here is the problem: Sunday, John (L) made the announcements and stated that we (Sandy and I) had decided to leave. Either John just flat out lied or he was confused. I don't think any member there could believe John was confused about the matter after I presented to the congregation (in their bulletin) my email that I had sent to "The Leadership." We live in a wicked world where lying is pretty much the norm when people need to lie for their own purpose. But is that the norm with God's people is this perverted Age? Sad to say that it has been my experience that most in the church just overlook it, after all everybody does it! But is that what God wants??? Will God overlook it??? Will God justify any of us for overlooking such evils??? Is lying a sin? This is not an article on lying, but I do want to give you just a few verses to consider: Rev. 21:8; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Tim. 5:20; Eph. 5:11; 2 Thess. 3:6. Now this is just a few verses, but **do we believe God's Word?** Evidently many do not and this, I believe, is the main problem in the church and the main problem in the world.

After the lie in the announcements I determined to do nothing to upset anything about the worship and to preach as planned. After services Sandy and I stood at the door, as was our custom to greet those who wanted to speak to us. Some seemed angry with us for us deciding to leave, and many expressed disappoint about us deciding to leave. When such was the case we set the record straight saying it wasn't us but "The Leadership." Randy (L) was nearby and most likely heard us set the record straight.

When men are of such character it is not hard to predict what may happen next. I told Sandy that it would not surprise me if someone did not try to cause trouble in the next Wednesday night class. Sure enough as I was trying to make a point because I knew some were using denominational commentaries and material, I said at one point in teaching the class, What you need to do is study the Bible and if you need more help then go to a good commentary written by sound brethren [I was interrupted here by Randy (L), but later got to make the rest of my point which was to go back to the Bible for the final word]. Which I believe is good sound advice: Start with the Bible, if you need more help go to a good sound commentary or ask some sound person, but then go back to the Bible and see if what the person says is right.

Randy (L) said, WHAT, you don't go to commentaries, that is the work of men. Randy said you pray, study the Bible and the Holy